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AREA CAPSULES

March 13, 1990

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Summary

By

Carl Rosenblatt

GEORGETOWN

CONFERENCE: Big East.

COACH: Larry Geracioti.

1989 RECORD: 15-26.

Geracioti

guided a very young Hoyas team to a 7-11 conference record last season, and has even more youth to work year. He expected at least five freshman pitchers to make a staff returning Russ Di Marcello (2-2, 5.24 ERA), John Belicka (2-7, 5.37), Charles Morgan (3-5, 7.21), Peter Patrissi (3-4, 8.55) and Todd Boyan (3-4, 8.78). Walter Wrobleski is a talented transfer from a junior college in Kansas.

Belicka

(.372, 36 RBI, 32 runs) returns as Georgetown's best hitter and will play first base when he's not pitching. Left fielder Carlton Thompson

(.341, 14 runs), catcher Tom Walter (.313, 18 RBI), shortstop Joe Russo (.289, 28 RBI, 12 stolen bases, 26 runs), and third baseman Kevin O'Connor (.257, 12 RBI) round out what should be a solid lineup. Like last year, pitching will be the Hoyas' biggest question mark, but Geracioti has enough good arms to challenge for one of the top four spots that qualify for the Big East tournament.

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GEORGE MASON

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CONFERENCE: Colonial Athletic Association.

COACH: Billy Brown.

1989 RECORD: 23-25.

The Patriots struggled through a subpar season in 1989, with a losing record after four straight years of 30-plus victories. Their 3-10 CAA record was especially disappointing, and left Brown looking for answers in the off-season. He may have found some, particularly on offense, as GMU welcomes a host of transfers. Chris Burr transferred from UMBC, and joins seniors Kyle Settle (.324, 29 RBI, 16 SB) and Kevin Kobylinski (.359, 5 HR, 23 RBI) in a potent outfield.

First baseman Mark Moeller (Longwood) and shortstop Ken Munoz (Rockland

Community College in New York) are other transfers who will join second baseman Pete Adams (.385) and third baseman Mike Frigault (.233) in the infield. On the mound, Brown has transfer Todd Van Cleave (Garden City CC in Kansas) and returning starters Brian Nelson (6-2, 4.30 ERA) and Frank Laviano (3-6, 6.86). Jim Lebo (1-2, 1 save, 5.79) will begin the year as the short reliever, and may receive help from Kobylinski.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON

CONFERENCE: Atlantic 10.

COACH: John Castleberry.

1989 RECORD: 30-24.

The

Colonials enjoyed their most successful season last year, capturing the Atlantic 10 tournament and a berth in the NCAA tournament. And, despite losing four of his best players, Castleberry insists this year's team is more talented. On offense the Colonials return outfielders Ken Lavan (.360, 23 runs, 18 SB) and Mike Welch (.233, 4 HR, 30 RBI), catcher David Fletcher (.273, 14 RBI) and second baseman Greg Orlosky (.224, 34 runs, 11 SB).

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pitchers Paul Fischer (7-4, 4.29 ERA), Gino Goldfarb (7-3, 4.83, 51 SO in 72 2/3 IP), and Bill Arnold (3-4, 4.84) return, and Castleberry plans to use Welch (0-3, 1 save) and Mark Eyer (1-1, 1 save) out of the

bullpen. Though they are much more inexperienced than in 1989, the Colonials have enough good freshmen that they should again contend for the conference title.

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HOWARD

CONFERENCE: Mid-Eastern Athletic.

COACH: Chuck Hinton.

1989 RECORD: 14-22.

The 1989 Bison, while playing a tough national schedule, had a 4-2 record in the MEAC, good enough for second behind Delaware State. Hinton begins his 18th season as Howard's coach and will rely primarily on two hitters for offensive output. Senior first baseman Cluey Hargrove (.317, 7 HR, 26 RBI) out of Baltimore will conclude a Howard career that has seen him crush balls over fences on a consistent basis. Sophomore outfielder Lee Jones (.278, 8 HR, 22 RBI) gained a starting spot last season and already has begun to follow in Hargrove's footsteps.

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MARYLAND

CONFERENCE: Atlantic Coast.

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COACH: Jack Jackson.

1989 RECORD: 17-22.

The Terrapins finished seventh in the ACC in 1989 with a 4-13 record, and it may be tough to improve significantly in a conference that includes

three nationally ranked teams (No. 6 Georgia Tech, No. 10 North Carolina and No. 18 Clemson). Jackson nevertheless has reason to be optimistic, largely because Maryland returns four starting pitchers, all freshmen last year, who recorded 16 of the team's 17 victories. Chris Smoot (5-3, 3.66 ERA), Charles Devereux (5-2, 4.70), John Rayne (4-6, 6.10), and Ed Ferko (2-1, 5.46) anchor a staff that posted the Terrapins' lowest cumulative ERA (5.96) since 1986.

Captain

Bill Meury (.276, 14 RBI) anchors the infield at shortstop, while his twin brother Joe (.256, 11 RBI) will again start at catcher. Third baseman Drew Johnson (.293, 7 HR, 26 RBI, 13 doubles) is top returning hitter and second baseman Clyde Van Dyke (.259, 13 RBI), cleanup batter Smoot (who plays first base as well), and center fielder Brett McGonnigal will play every day. A good recruiting class brings pitching, speed and defense to a team that could be competitive in the ACC.

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NAVY

CONFERENCE: Eastern Intercollegiate Baseball League.

COACH: Joe Duff.

1989 RECORD: 18-14.

Duff

guided the Midshipmen to a winning record in 1989 despite beginning the season with three regulars who had never played a varsity game and two who had a combined total of 21 at-bats before last year. Navy's inexperience showed in EIBL play, however, as a seven-game, midseason losing steak contributed to a league record of 7-11. The hitting

improved over the season, though, and returning are outfielders Joe Pasquito (.360, 26 RBI) and Chris Engdahl (.296, 27 runs), catcher Tim Peifley (.300, 3 HR, 17 RBI) and second baseman Sam Mowery (.312, 12 RBI).

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Navy's strength last year was pitching (a 3.43 team ERA), and the Midshipmen return excellent starters in seniors Mike Coonan (7-2, 2.94 ERA) and David Lowe (3-6, 3.73, 57 SO in 70 IP), who was also an all-East honorable mention football linebacker. Duff hopes to find his other two starters among junior Carl Bresko, sophomores Tom Adissi (the staff's only left-hander), Matt Portoni and Rob Sorenson, and freshman John Robinson. The pitching should be formidable again, and Navy should be poised to challenge for the EIBL crown.

VIRGINIA

CONFERENCE: Atlantic Coast.

COACH: Dennis Womack.

1989 RECORD: 25-24-1.

Though the Cavaliers play in one of the toughest of conferences, if ever they were primed to make a run at the top, this is the year. Virginia returns nine of its top 10 hitters and six of its top eight pitchers from a team that in 1989 won 23 of its last 36 games. The team will be playing on a new artificial turf field (the only one in the ACC) that was completed in August. Womack welcomes the new field because the Cavaliers can conduct more outdoor practices at the start of the season, instead

of depending on the condition of the grass field.

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Virginia

hit extremely well the latter part of last season, and back to lead the offense are all-ACC center fielder Chris Kughn (.392, 4 HR, 35 RBI) and shortstop Bobby Rivell (.286, 3 HR, 28 RBI), who won the Thurman Munson Award as batting champion (.358) of the Cape Cod League over the summer. On the mound, Keith Seiler (6-3, 5.79, 63 SO in 74 2/3 IP), Kevin Stock (3-2, 3.04), and Mike Long (4-4, 4.73) will lead the starters, and Todd Ruyak (2-1, 1 save, 26 SO in 31 1/3 IP) and Mike Brennan (1-2, 2 saves, 4.34) should see action out of the bullpen.

CATHOLIC

CONFERENCE: Division III independent.

COACH: Ross Natoli.

1989 RECORD: 15-22.

Ross

Natoli's squad always proves to be tough for area Division I teams, and this year should be no different. The Cardinals will rely on three seniors to carry them through a difficult schedule. Center fielder Neil Roach (.333, 4 HR, 28 RBI) and third baseman Mark McVicker (.330, 17 runs) will lead the offense and Kevin Nalepka (5-5, 3.97) should be the team's top pitcher.

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GALLAUDET

CONFERENCE: Blue-Gray (Division III).

COACH: Vance Rewolinski.

1989 RECORD: 7-12-1.

The

Bison have not enjoyed success on the diamond in quite some time, and there is little reason to expect a turnaround. Gallaudet had its best record in recent memory last season, though, which must give Rewolinski some optimism. The Bison must receive a standout year from returning pitcher Jimmy Segala to be competitive in the conference.

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MARY WASHINGTON

CONFERENCE: Blue-Gray (Division III).

COACH: Tom Sheridan.

1989 RECORD: 16-6.

It

is difficult to fathom how far the Eagles have come as they enter their third year of baseball existence: already Sheridan has built a team ranked 10th nationally in its division and should only get better. Loaded with more top recruits, the Eagles return all-region first baseman Dan Beverly (.476, 23 RBI) from a lineup that hit an astounding .349 as a team last year. Starter Joe Kruper (4-2, 3.17) and bullpen stopper Mike O'Donnell (5-1, 2 saves) anchor the pitching staff.

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